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Mississippi's Freest Man

Margaret Long

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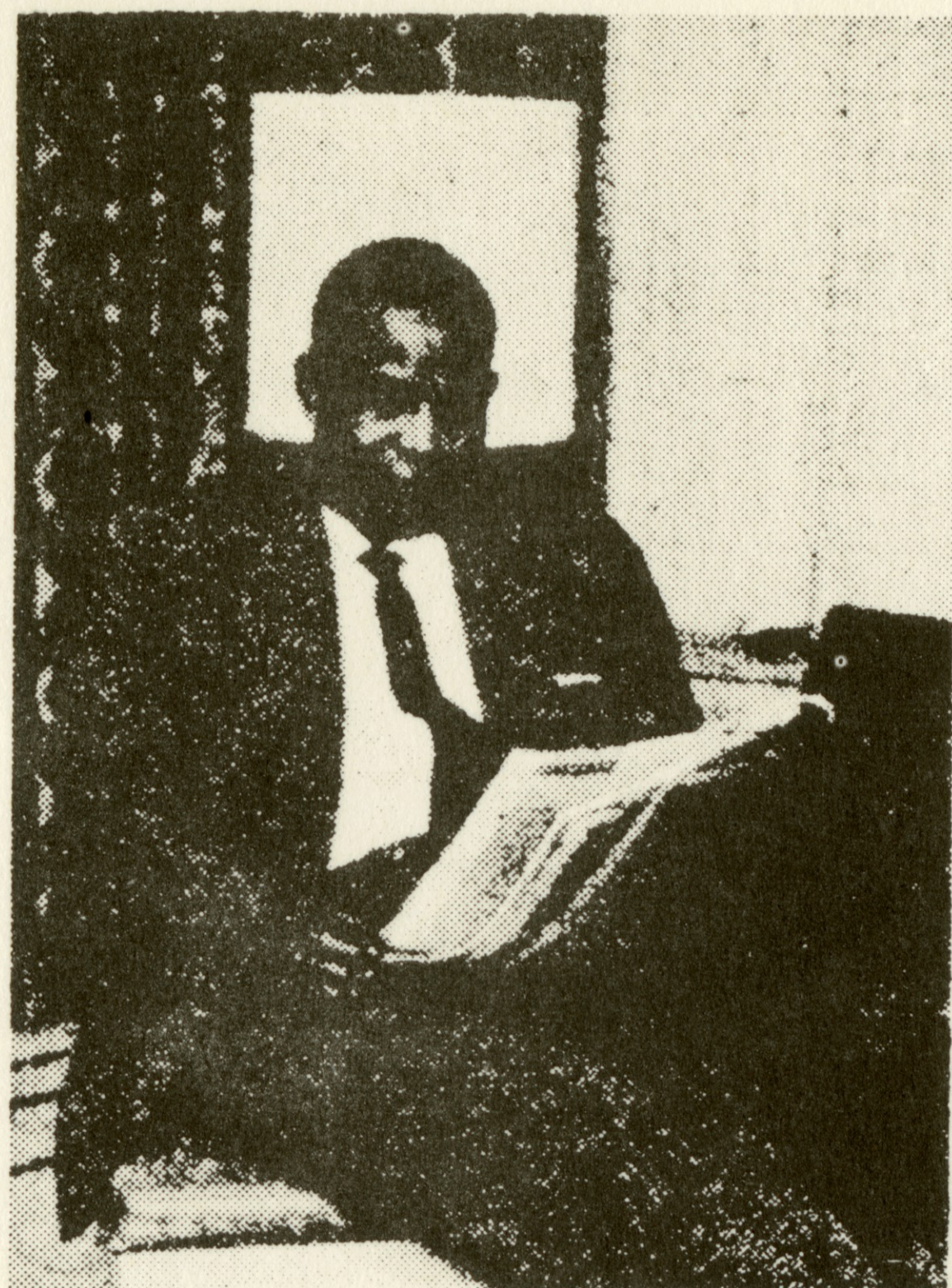


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Aaron Henry
of Clarksdale

MISSISSIPPI'S FREEST MAN

BY MARGARET LONG
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Negro "Freedom Ballot" campaign, conceived by a federation of the civil rights organizations in Mississippi, advanced Aaron Henry for governor and Reverend Edwin King, a young white Methodist chaplain and dean of students at Negro Tougaloo College, near Jackson, for lieutenant-governor.

With emphasis and applause he declared the Freedom Vote "is a vote for the *right to vote*," and a political reform by which "you can make a Senator Javits of Senator Eastland."

Upstairs, after the meeting, a dozen youngsters clapped, danced, and sang Freedom songs. Laughing, the black boys began the old spiritual *I'm Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table, Bye and Bye* and concluded with the Mississippi version, *I'm Gonna Marry Barnett's Daughter, Bye and Bye*. "Man," one boy bent over in mirth, "his daughter, she 'bout thirty-eight years old!"

Of Mississippi's 2,000,000 persons, 960,000 are Negro, with a sixty per cent majority in the Delta.

"If we get a civil rights bill, with protection for voting, we can change this whole state," Henry fervently predicts. "We've had more than fifty mass meetings around the state over this thing. Yes, I've had a ball; I enjoy campaigning and the crowds and enthusiasm. We've got this organization now, from districts right on down to city blocks."